Prices of pulses

*274. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of rise in prices of pulses during the recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of movement of prices of pulses during the current year and the comparative prices of pulses during the last three years,

(c) the reasons for price rise; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to assuage the prices of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of movement of prices of pulses during the current year and the last three years is given below:

All India Annual average retail prices of Pulses during 2004—2007

Gram Dal

(Rs. Per kg.)

	2004	2005	2006	2007(upto 9.3.07)
North Zone	21.91	23.74	33.51	37.55
West Zone	19.94	21.59	31.87	35.00
East Zone	21.86	23.40	31.41	36.96
South Zone	23.89	26.01	35.47	38.93
All-India	21.90	23.65	32.84	37.07

Tur/Arhar Dal

(Rs. Per kg.)

	2004	2005	2006	2007(upto 9.3.07)
North Zone	32.03	31.41	33.66	35.04
West Zone	28.40	28.47	30.09	31.91
East Zone	30.32	29.51	30.91	32.07
South Zone	33.78	32.24	33.28	34.93
All-India	30.96	30.20	31.71	33.17

* The Department of Consumer Affairs is monitoring the retail prices of tur dal and gram dal.

The Average wholesale prices of Urad (whole), Moong (whole) and masoor whole) for Delhi for March 2007 (*Up to 10-3-07) and the corresponding >eriod in the last three years are given below:

(Rs. Per kg.)

Year	Urad	Moong	Masoor
2004	18.75	19.50	20.50
2005	27.00	26.25	19.00
2006	36.00	35.00	NA
2007(upto 10.3.07)	31.25	30.75	20.00

Source: NAFED

(c) The reasons for rise in prices of pulses are shortfall in domestic supplies relative to demand, changes in consumption pattern and hardening of international prices.

(d) Government has already taken steps to check the increase in prices of pulses by taking measures for augmenting domestic supplies through permitting imports at zero duty, ban on exports of pulses and importing

pulses through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. and other agencies. Besides, Government is also monitoring prices of pulses on a regular basis.

Survey on health, nutrition and behaviour

*275. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Family Health survey was conducted to gather information on health, nutrition and behaviour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the findings of the survey indicates that the indices on health and development are not encouraging;

(d) if so, the details thereof, with the details of funds generated from various sources, allocated and spent during the last five years on health particularly in respect of women and children in rural areas, year-wise and State-wise; and

(e) what measures Government propose to initiate to improve the situation and the time-frame, if any, set for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Family Health Survey-Ill (NFHS-III) has been conducted in the year 2005-06. The survey has collected information on Mortality, marriage & Fertility, Family Planning, Maternal and Child Health, Immunization of children, Treatment seeking behaviour for childhood diseases like diarrhoea & acute respiratory infection, child feeding practices, Nutritional status of children and adults, prevalence of anemia among children and adults, obesity among men & women, Knowledge attitude and behaviour with regards to of HIV/AlDS and its prevalence, women's empowerment, use of iodated salt, family life education, prevalence and treatment seeking behaviour for TB & Malaria. The survey has covered samples from all ever married, unmarried and widowed women in the age group 15-49 and men in the age group of 15-54.